

Beat Summer Brain Drain

What is summer brain drain? Some teachers call it “summer loss” and others call it the “summer slump”. It doesn’t matter what you call it, it happens every summer to school age kids. Teachers know that it sometimes takes kids a month to get re-focused in the fall. Here are some ways to have a fun summer but still encourage reading and a love of books.

- Start a book swap. Invite families over for a book swap. Have book swaps throughout the summer to encourage the kids to finish their books in time for the next swap date.
- Be a role model. Do you try to read more in the summer? Take a book to the beach, pack books in your luggage and make sure your child does the same.
- Join the Calgary Public Library Summer Reading Club. This club encourages reading with prizes and is free to join. www.calgarypubliclibrary.com
- Relax! During the school year kids are often reading books that aren’t their favourites. Over the summer, let them read what they want. Comic books and magazines offer a fun break from the usual.
- Watch the film version first. Do the kids like to watch movies on those long cross-country road trips? Look for movies based on books. Even if the book might not be in your child’s reading level now, it will be eventually and chances are if they loved the movie, they’ll read the book too. Some fun movies based on books include Ramona and Beezus, Stuart Little, Charlotte’s Web, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, The Lorax and Horton Hears a Who.
- Go for long leisurely trips to the book store.
- Keep lots of books around and ban screen time. Sound extreme? Try it just one night a week, or make every Saturday (or any day) “No-Technology-Day”. A colourful stack of books and a basket full of kid’s magazines will look a lot more enticing once the iPods, laptops, iPads and TVs are turned off.
- Take time to read aloud. Without the rush of piano lessons and hockey games you might have some extra time each night. When you read aloud, use silly voices and add every ounce of your dramatic flair. Reading around the campfire is especially fun!
- Find a Little Free Library in your neighbourhood. What’s a Little Free Library? It’s a teeny tiny home for books, meant to be exchanged (for free!) and enjoyed by the community. Find a Little Free Library near you on the Little Free Library website at www.littlefreelibrary.org or at <http://calgaryreads.com/launching-little-free-libraries/>
- Create Family Storytime. If you are visiting family this summer, get them involved too. Aunties, Uncles, Nanas and Grandpas make memorable readers!

Find more tips, resources and products check out
www.calgaryreads.com

